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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/903,211	07/11/2001	Yoshiaki Hiratsuka	2500.65689	9972

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EXAMINER

SEFER, AHMED N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2826

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/903,211

Applicant(s)

HIRATSUKA ET AL.

Examiner

A. Sefer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 and 9-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 and 9-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 15-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/3/05 & 9/22/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed September 9, 2005 has been entered and new claims 19-21 have been introduced.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7, 15 and 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The application as originally filed does not specifically support the claim limitation "... without disposition of an electrically-conductive frame in front of the display panel".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 7, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitcher et al. ("Whitcher") USPN 6,144,552 in view of Karasaki ("Karasaki") JP 11-167108 and Meisner et al. ("Meisner") USPN 6,005,642.

Whitcher discloses (see figs. 1 and 2 and col. 3, lines 41-63) a display panel module comprising a display panel 75 defining a screen; a panel-shaped module component superposed on a rear surface of the display panel or opposed to a rear surface of the display panel, the panel-shaped module component excluding a metal frame (as in claim 16); and a rigid plastic bezel 15 having a flat plate frame, and a rigid plastic member 17 coupled to the bezel so as to hold the display panel and the module component against the flat plate frame, but does not specifically disclose an electrically insulating bezel and lacks anticipation of directly receiving a set of display panel and the panel-shape module component.

Karasaki discloses in figs. 1-3 a display panel module comprising a display panel 7 comprising a bezel 1 having a flat plate frame directly receiving a set of display panel and a panel-shape module component.

Meisner discloses (figs. 1 and 2 and col. 9, lines 50-55) a display panel module comprising a display panel comprising an electrically insulating bezel 21/29.

Since Whitcher, Karasaki and Meisner are all from the same field of endeavor, LCD module, Karasaki's and Meisner's teachings would have been recognized in Whitcher's pertinent art. Therefore, in view of Karasaki, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would be motivated to modify Whitcher's device by incorporating Karasaki's teachings since that would prevent sudden removal of the LCD module as taught by Karasaki. It

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would have been obvious to substitute Whitcher's rigid plastic bezel with an electrically insulating bezel since that would prevent substantial electric shock hazard as taught by Meisner.

Regarding claim 15, Whitcher discloses (col. 6, lines 9-19) said module component comprising at least a light source (CCFL backlight).

Regarding claims 19 and 20, Meisner discloses the electrically insulating bezel receives the set of display panel and the panel shaped module component without disposition of an electrically-conductive frame in front of the display panel.

6. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitcher in view of Howell et al. ("Howell") USPN 6,353,531 and Meisner.

Whitcher discloses (see figs. 1 and 2 and col. 3, lines 41-63) a display panel 73 defining a screen on a front surface; a panel-shaped module component 17 superposed on a rear surface of the display panel; and an electrically insulating bezel 15 enclosing the display panel and the panel-shaped module component so as to couple the module component to the display panel, but does not specifically disclose an electrically insulating bezel and lacks anticipation of a housing and a display panel module incorporated within the housing.

Howell discloses in figs. 2 and 4 an electronic apparatus comprising a housing 32 and a display panel module 36 incorporated within the housing.

Meisner discloses (figs. 1 and 2 and col. 9, lines 50-55) a display panel module comprising a display panel comprising an electrically insulating bezel 21/29.

Since Whitcher, Howell and Meisner are all from the same field of endeavor, LCD module, Howell's and Meisner's teachings would have been recognized in Whitcher's pertinent art. Therefore, in view of Howell, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

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was made would be motivated to modify Whitcher's device by incorporating Howell's teachings since that would provide increased protection to critical components as taught by Howell. It would have been obvious to substitute Whitcher's rigid plastic bezel with an electrically insulating bezel since that would prevent substantial electric shock hazard as taught by Meisner.

Regarding claim 21, Meisner discloses the electrically insulating bezel receives the set of display panel and the panel shaped module component without disposition of an electrically-conductive frame in front of the display panel.

5. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitcher in view of Karasaki and Meisner as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Mishima et al. ("Mishima") US PG-Pub 2001/0033265.

The combined references disclose the device structure as recited in the claim but lack anticipation of a liquid crystal cells being established between a pair of glass substrates.

Mishima discloses (figs. 1, 2, 12, 13 and par. 0133) an electronic apparatus comprising a display panel 4 including a pair of glass substrates SUB1/SUB2 as outermost panels, liquid crystal cells being established between a pair of glass substrates.

Therefore, in view of Mishima, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would be motivated to modify device of the combined reference by incorporating liquid crystal cells being established between a pair of glass substrates since that would provide a device free of luminance irregularity as taught by Mishima.

6. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitcher in view of Karasaki and Meisner as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Yamamoto et al. ("Yamamoto") USPN 5,993,027.

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The combined references disclose the device structure as recited in the claim but lack anticipation of a liquid crystal cells being established between a pair of glass substrates.

Yamamoto discloses in figs. 3 and 4 an electronic apparatus comprising a display panel 22 including a pair of glass substrates 104/109 as outermost panels, liquid crystal cells being established between a pair of glass substrates.

Therefore, in view of Yamamoto, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would be motivated to modify device of the combined reference by incorporating liquid crystal cells being established between a pair of glass substrates since that would improve image quality as taught by Yamamoto.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 2-6 and 9-14 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Sefer whose telephone number is (571) 272-1921

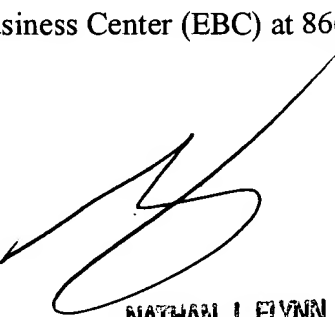
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ANS

November 27, 2005



NATHAN J. FLYNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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